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UNCLAS ABUJA 000677

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E FOR ANNE PENCE
EB/IFD/OIA FOR MARSHA KELLEY AND TIM HAUSER
INL/C FOR DAVID LUNA AND JOHN BRANDOLINO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGOV KCOR ECON EAID NI

SUBJECT: PROGRESS OF G-8 TRANSPARENCY/ANTI-CORRUPTION

WORKING GROUP (GETAWG) IN NIGERIA

REF: ABUJA 393

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR PUBLISHING ON INTERNET
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¶1. (SBU) The G-8 embassies, IMF, and World Bank in Abuja created the G-8 Transparency/Anti-corruption Working Group (GETAWG) here in March, and have moved forward with preparations for the Nigeria pilot program under Evian per reftel and e-mails from E, EB and AF. GETAWG has begun a "living document" matrix of transparency and anti-corruption programs in Nigeria funded by the G-8, World Bank and IMF directly, and indirectly through the EU and UNDP (which also sit in at GETAWG meetings). That matrix will be ready for beginning negotiations with the GON on a comprehensive Technical Plan after the next GETAWG meeting May 3, and the GON says it will be ready to work with us from that point.

¶2. (SBU) Meetings on March 22 and April 2 produced a GETAWG consensus on moving forward with the GON on both the joint Political Statement and the comprehensive Technical Plan in order to have both rolled out as a Compact at the June 8-10 Sea Island G-8 Summit. It will be a very tight schedule, and GETAWG members here have not received cleared instructions for the Political Statement from G-8 capitals. Internally, GETAWG is chaired by the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, as the U.S. will host the G-8 Summit, and the chair will pass to the UK when it becomes Summit host for the next year. The UK High Commission told us it did not want to share the chair this year, although we believe that it will be both U.S. and UK chiefs of mission who will represent GETAWG in formal discussions with the GON on either or both parts of the Compact. Most other GETAWG members are quite happy to leave to the U.S./UK all interaction with the GON on the Compact, in part because they all seem to be having trouble getting instructions from capitals.

¶3. (SBU) PolCouns met with GON anti-corruption coordinator Oby Ezekwesili on April 16 to discuss a timetable for building the Compact in time for rollout at Sea Island. She believes, as GETAWG does, that rolling out a joint Political Statement and comprehensive Technical Plan will be difficult but possible by Sea Island. When the GON Economic Team returns to Abuja from Brussels and Washington around April 26, it will organize itself that week in order to meet with GETAWG here in the first or at latest second week of May to compare GETAWG's Matrix with what they see as existing/desired GON initiatives for the Technical Plan. Their presentation on the Technical Plan will be organized around those GON initiatives, not G-8 programs, and discussions on this track will essentially be a mapping exercise of comparing the two and identifying gaps. Time considerations before Sea Island will decide how detailed that mapping process becomes, and work will continue after Sea Island on both more detail and implementation.

¶4. (SBU) Ezekwesili strongly urged that the GON not be presented with any G-8 negotiating draft, model or even model elements for the joint Political Statement part of the Compact. The GON would strongly prefer to draft the Political Statement and negotiate it with us, and wants to be able to say the G-8 signed on to their draft and not the other way around. If the G-8 wishes to use their draft or the signed agreement as a model for other pilots, they have no objection. The GON would hope to present us a draft joint Political Statement early in May too, she said, and work that simultaneously with, but probably in separate meetings from, work with us on the Technical Plan. Ezekwesili said the GON goal is to have the joint Political Statement encompass the goals of the comprehensive Technical Plan, as well as setting out overall goals and benchmarks. She said she guesses President Obasanjo would rather roll out the total Compact during his NEPAD presentation at Sea Island, instead of having it rolled out separately as a G-8 anti-corruption program.

¶5. (SBU) COMMENT: The GON's desire for ownership of the Political Statement draft happens to coincide with GETAWG internal dynamics in Abuja. While all GETAWG members have

contributed to both the programs matrix and lively discussion upon it, none have been willing to contribute proposals on what they want in the Political Statement. Even the UK High Commission and DfID here have not provided ideas, not being sure what London wants and remaining a little suspicious that G-8 meetings in Washington have not produced agreement on guidance for the Political Statement.

ROBERTS